



QUARTERLY UPDATE OF THE MEDICARE EHR DEMONSTRATION

Welcome to the first quarterly newsletter for the Medicare EHR Demonstration. The purpose of the newsletter is to keep practices in the Treatment Group updated about the demonstration.

The goal of this demonstration is to foster the implementation and adoption of EHRs and health information technology (HIT) more broadly as effective vehicles not only to improve the quality of care provided, but also to transform the way medicine is practiced and delivered. Adoption of HIT has the potential to provide significant savings to the Medicare program and improve the quality of care rendered to Medicare beneficiaries. This demonstration is designed to leverage the combined forces of private and public payers to drive physician practices to widespread adoption and use of EHRs.

DEMONSTRATION INCENTIVE PAYMENT-- BRIEF OVERVIEW

EACH PRACTICE IS ELIGIBLE TO RECEIVE THREE
TYPES OF INCENTIVE PAYMENTS:

1. Annual EHR Incentive Payment based on performance on the Office Systems Survey (OSS)
2. One time Reporting Payment for reporting clinical quality measures, following demonstration Year 2 only
3. Annual Quality Incentive Payment for performance on clinical quality measures for years 3-5

To learn more, please visit the audio and slide presentations from the May Kickoff Meeting via the link in the gray box located in the upper right hand corner of this newsletter.

**Check the website for EHR
Demonstration information:
<http://www.cms.hhs.gov/DemoProjectsEvalRpts/MD/itemdetail.asp?itemID=CMS1204776>**

**Did you know you can review
material from the May Kickoff
Meeting from links available on
this website? Just click on the
link to any of the community
partners and access the meeting
materials.**

STEPS YOUR PRACTICE SHOULD BE UNDERTAKING NOW

1. Take steps to implement a CCHIT-certified EHR if you haven't already. Be sure to review the clinical measures to make sure your EHR System is capturing the necessary data in a way that can be easily retrieved.
2. Your Community Partner offers useful information. Please link to their site via the Demonstration website or hot linked at:

[Louisiana](#)
[Maryland and Washington DC](#)
[Pennsylvania - Pittsburgh area](#)
[South Dakota - and selected
counties in bordering states](#)

3. Plan for the OSS. This will be sent to your practice in the spring 2010. The OSS measures the extent to which EHR and care management systems are being used in physician offices to support improved patient care over the course of the demonstration.

TIMELINE FOR THE OSS

Treatment Group

Annually starting in Spring 2010

Control Group

End of 2nd and 5th years of demonstration
(Spring 2011 & 2014)



SUBHEAD HERE

**IT IS IMPORTANT TO KEEP YOUR PRACTICE INFORMATION UP-TO-DATE.
IT IMPACTS INCENTIVE PAYMENT AMOUNTS PRACTICES MAY RECEIVE!**

We recognize that practice information will need updating during the course of the demonstration. The most important reason you want to keep your practice information updated is that it can affect your payment calculation for any incentive payments you are eligible to earn throughout the demonstration.

Until you are able to update this information directly via the internet sometime in 2010, please send updates to CMS at the following address:

EHR Demonstration
c/o Actuarial Research Corporation
5950 Symphony Woods Road
Suite 510
Columbia, MD 21044

Fax: 410-730-7945

Keep CMS up-to-date of any changes to the practice:

- New providers joining or current providers leaving
- New Tax ID numbers and/or NPIs
- Address changes
- Changes in contact information
- New e-mail addresses

Please Note:

- Sensitive information like Tax ID numbers MUST be sent via fax or regular mail to the address above.
- Always include your Practice ID when communicating about the demonstration.

Access to the CMS Team is just a click away. Use this email mailbox for communications that do not include sensitive data like Tax ID numbers:

CMS_EHR_DEMO@CMS.HHS.GOV

Questions about the Demonstration:

CMS Team:

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